

**Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi's Statement  
on Proposal for 30% Increase in Student Fees**

SACRAMENTO – Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, a University of California Regent and California State University Trustee, issued the following statement in response to President Mark Yudof's proposal to increase UC undergraduate fees by more than 30 percent:

"This jaw dropping proposal to raise UC student fees by another \$2,514 over the next year will single-handedly take a University of California education off the table for thousands of hardworking students. It will slam the door shut on many members of our future workforce, undermining California's ability to remain competitive in the global marketplace. For the fifth year in a row, we will raise taxes on our students rather than do the right thing and maintain our financial support for a high quality public university education for every qualified student.

I plead with the every UC Regent and all those in to the UC and CSU leadership to seek alternative funding solutions and do something positive rather than further endangering the state's future prosperity.

Instead of taxing students, California should join every other oil producing state in the nation and levy a fee on oil pumped from the ground in our state. Why should California's families, struggling to keep up with rising gas prices, be taxed by the University of California because the oil companies won't pay their fair share? In Texas for example, much of the funding for the University of Texas is oil severance tax money.

I remain committed to the fight to end the unfair taxation of our students and to once again invest in the promise of this great state," Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi said.

Additional information:

- The UC Regents, including Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, are scheduled to discuss the proposed fee increase at the September 16 Regents meeting in UCSF, Mission Bay. They will also consider proposals to reduce freshman enrollment by another 2,300 students as they did this year. Regents are not expected to vote on the proposals to increase student fees or reduce freshmen enrollment until their November meeting. Regents Meeting Agenda: <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/regents/regmeet/sept09.html>

- By 2025, California is projected to have one million college graduates fewer than required to keep pace with economic growth. California faces a shortage of 100,000 teachers by 2016, 14,000 nurses by 2014, and 40,000 engineers by 2014. Student fees have more than doubled

at CSU and UC since 1990 and more than tripled at community colleges adjusted for inflation.

- If UC Regents approve the latest fee hike proposal, fees for undergraduate students would increase to \$10,302 by fall 2010. That is 44 percent higher than fall 2008.
- Student fees at UC and CSU have increased more than fivefold since 1990. Because of budget cuts to the systems, UC has cut fall 2009 freshman enrollment by 2,300 students, and CSU has cut enrollment by nearly 50,000 students.
- According to a study commissioned by the Campaign for College Opportunity, if an additional two percent of Californians earned associate's degrees and another one percent earned bachelor's degrees, California's economy would grow by \$20 billion, our state and local tax revenues would increase by \$1.2 billion a year, and 174,000 new jobs would be created.
- The failure to better fund education in California endangers our state's future prosperity. As the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California explained in recent report, "Currently planned reductions in funding to the state's colleges and universities will only exacerbate the skills gap. Without concerted effort to improve college attendance and graduation in California, the state's economic and fiscal futures will be much less bright."